

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

Helen Burton	Chair
Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux	Member
Debra Harper (exc.abs.)	Member
Karen Tisdell	Member
Michele Glaser	City Secretary

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 Update on Marsh Mania and protection of the marsh grasses.

Ms. Tisdell reported that Marsh Mania was a success and two more schools have been doing additional planting. She stated that the public needs to be educated that there is no beach at Pine Gully, but a marine habitat with marsh grasses. Currently the dredged area requires revegetation. Ms. Tisdell stated that a physical barrier seems to be effective in keeping people out of the area.

A motion was made by Ms. Antrobus and seconded by Mr. Popken

To recommend installation by staff of a green plastic barrier fence in areas to be identified by the committee members and to determine suitable plants for the mouth of Pine Gully.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Ms. Burton stated that this item would also be on the agenda next month.

2.2 Update on Texas Parks & Wildlife trail.

Ms. Burton stated that she had spoken with Kevin Padgett regarding the trail which initially ran too straight and is now too curvy. Ms. Antrobus suggested that the committee engage the services of Andrew Thomas, who has shown an interest in the trail, to map out a desirable configuration for the trail. Mr. Coggeshall stated that construction of the bridge has begun, decomposed granite will be used for the trail and it has been staked out. Additionally soil samples have been taken in order to determine the types of trees to plant. Ms. Antrobus suggested fast-growing hackberry trees as a possibility.

2.3 Consider park assignments.

Item 3.2

Ms. Burton stated that Ms. Harper has been assigned four parks and will likely be amenable to giving up one or two. Mr. Popken stated that he would like to check on Hester as it is near his home and he will gladly take another, as well. Ms. Burton stated that she would contact Ms. Harper and report back to the members.

2.4 Consider updates on the previously discussed items:

- **Little Free Library** – Ms. Burton stated that the library has had its grand opening and is being used by the public.
- **Trees planted in memoriam** – Ms. Burton stated that the tree in Pine Gully Park is doing well and there has been another request for a memorial tree. She added that Kevin Padgett has stated that 10 to 15 gallon trees are preferred.
- **Park benches** – The same person interested in a memorial tree is also interested in donating a bench. Ms. Burton stated that new procedures have been established for bench donations in order to simplify the process. A determination will have to be made as to where the benches will be located.
- **Dow grant** – no additional information on the status of the grant.

2.5 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion was made by John Coggeshall and seconded by Sally Antrobus

To elect Helen Burton as Chair.

An amended motion was made by Monica Comeaux and seconded by Karen Tisdell

To elect Sally Antrobus as Vice-Chair.

THE AMENDED MOTION AND ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Ms. Antrobus stated that the oleanders along the Carothers border were doing well. Mr. Coggeshall asked if the noise issue at Carothers had been resolved. Ms. Glaser responded that a resolution will be considered by council at the next meeting. The resolution states that any event must end by ten o'clock, all deejays must be from the approved list and the event planner must be in attendance.

3.2 Approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Tisdell and seconded by Mr. Popken

To approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

3.3 Consider Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.

Item #10 – Ms. Burton will give her next report to Council on July 15th.

Item #12 – Ms. Burton stated that Mr. Fosdick is doing a wonderful job and is enjoying cleaning and refurbishing signs, cleaning benches and anything else that requires attention. She added that if anyone finds anything in the parks needing attention, Mr. Fosdick can be recruited to do it. Ms. Burton stated that other volunteers had shown an interest in maintaining the butterfly garden and adopting a planter.

3.4 Consider upcoming meeting dates and agenda items.

The next meeting date is scheduled for July 3.

Agenda items will include:

- Advisability of a dog park
- Marsh grass and barrier plants
- Update on the trail
- Little free library
- Trees
- Dow grant
- Trash cans along the trails

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


Helen Burton, Chair



Michele Glaser, TRMC
City Secretary

